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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 421st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 22 May 1992, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

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(a) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of resolution 46/49 (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should complete its informal consultations and then try to finalize its report to the General Assembly.

The meeting was suspended at 5.10 p.m. and resumed at 6.45 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/49 (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 46/49 (continued) (A/AC.159/L.117 and Add.1)

Section III: Conclusion (A/AC.159/L.117/Add.1)

Paragraphs 1 and 2

2. Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

Paragraph 3

3. Mr. GOONETILLEKE (Sri Lanka) said that, in the light of the Committee's decision to append the Chairman's report as an annex to the Committee's report, there was no need to cite the document symbol and that the phrase in parentheses should read "see annex I".

4. Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia) suggested that the word "informed" should be replaced by the word "advised".

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the paragraph would be amended accordingly.

6. Paragraph 3, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 4

7. Paragraph 4 was adopted.

Paragraph 5

8. Mr. NAIMA-ARFA (Islamic Republic of Iran), supported by Mr. JAIN (India) and Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia), said that the phrase "zone of peace" should be capitalized, in line with the Committee's usual practice and with the style of the fifth preambular paragraph of resolution 46/49.

9. The CHAIRMAN agreed that the Committee should be consistent in its practice and that the phrase should be capitalized.

10. Paragraph 5, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 6-10

11. Paragraphs 6-10 were adopted.

Paragraph 10 bis

12. Mr. JAIN (India) said that paragraph 10 bis should now become paragraph 11. He pointed out the omission of the word "that" after the phrase "the Ad Hoc Committee considered".

13. The CHAIRMAN said that the paragraph would be renumbered as new paragraph 11 and that the word "that" would be inserted in the text.

14. Paragraph 10 bis (new paragraph 11) was adopted.

Paragraph 11

15. Mr. JAIN (India) said that the paragraph should be reworded, in accordance with United Nations practice, to read: "by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session".

16. The CHAIRMAN agreed with the recommendation by the representative of India and noted the omission of the words "it useful" between "considers" and "to hold".

17. Mr. ZIMBA (Mozambique) said that it might be prudent to omit the words "of five working days" or to supplement them with the words "not less than", as the Committee could not predict how long the session would last.

18. Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia) said that his delegation supported the deletion of the words "five working days".

19. Mr. CURE (Mauritius) agreed that the Committee should not prejudge the work of the session and that, therefore, the words should be dropped.

20. Mr. JAIN (India) noted that the holding of the session was, in any event, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, which would determine the length of the session, and that the text could therefore remain unaltered.

21. The CHAIRMAN agreed that the text could be left as it was, since the final decision would rest with the General Assembly. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the paragraph, which would be renumbered paragraph 12 and would read as follows: "Subject to the decision as may be taken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the Ad Hoc Committee considers it useful to hold a session of five working days in 1993 and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

22. Paragraph 11 (new paragraph 12), as orally amended, was adopted.

Document A/AC.159/L.117, paragraph 8

23. The CHAIRMAN said that paragraph 8 of the draft report contained in document A/AC.159/L.117 would now follow the paragraphs just adopted as paragraph 13 of section III, Conclusion.

24. Paragraph 8 of document A/AC.159/L.117 (new paragraph 13 of document A/AC.159/L.117/Add.1) was adopted.

25. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee, as a whole, was adopted.

26. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation had stated its position unambiguously on several occasions during the Committee's session and had reiterated the salient elements of that position in its statement to the Committee on 18 May. On the occasion of the adoption of the Committee's report, and in particular its Conclusion, he wished to reaffirm that position. His delegation had continued to participate constructively in the work of the Committee, with a view to promoting implementation of the 1971 Declaration, which continued to provide the Committee with its raison d'être. In that spirit, India had agreed on the Conclusion to be reflected as a consensus at the current session. That did not prejudice the position it had already stated or prejudge the position it might take at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, following its consideration of the issue in all its aspects during the intervening months.

27. Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia) said that his delegation was pleased by the progress achieved at the current session. Australia had been concerned by past developments in the Committee's work and had even considered withdrawing. He believed that the recent work of the Committee had vindicated Australia's decision to continue participating and he looked forward to future progress and cooperation among all members.

28. Australia had, by tradition, held the Vice-Chairmanship of the Committee but had decided to relinquish that position at the current session, partly in view of the concerns he had mentioned and partly in view of the departure of its representative on the Committee. He was happy to place on record that, in view of the constructive nature of the current session, Australia was willing to resume that position at future sessions.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that the decision by Australia to continue its participation and to resume the Vice-Chairmanship was to be welcomed as fully consistent with the new spirit of the Committee's work.

30. Mr. AMBEYI-LIGABO (Kenya) said that the progress achieved by the Committee should serve as an indicator to other countries of the Committee's willingness to accommodate their views, in accordance with the provisions of the 1971 Declaration.

31. Mr. GOONETILLEKE (Sri Lanka) urged the Committee to make good use of the time remaining before the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly to formulate a purposeful resolution for adoption by the Assembly.

32. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee's session had been of historic importance: in the space of five days, members had succeeded in resuscitating a flagging Committee and breathing new life into its work. Summarizing the conclusions of the Committee's report, he emphasized the new approach which the Committee should adopt in order to build confidence among its members and to encourage the return of those who had left it, and the need to cast off all vestiges of cold war rhetoric. He noted the potential benefits of a Committee meeting in 1993 to map out ways in which the principles of the 1971 Declaration could be implemented with enhanced validity and he welcomed the new spirit of cooperation, compromise and candour that had characterized the Committee's work, expressing the hope that it would help forge stronger ties of friendship among members.

33. For his part, he undertook to hold consultations with all Member States and to report back at the informal meeting of the Committee to be held before the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and to communicate, if necessary in person, the positive developments seen at the session to the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries to be held at Jakarta later in 1992. In conclusion, he expressed his sincere hope that the new direction the Committee had given to its work would continue to sustain its progress in the future.

The meeting rose at 7.30 p.m.